

STATE OF IOWA

CHESTER J. CULVER, GOVERNOR PATTY JUDGE, LT. GOVERNOR

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION JUDY A. JEFFREY, DIRECTOR

NEWS RELEASE For Immediate Release November 18, 2009 For more information: Elaine Watkins-Miller (515) 281-5651 elaine.watkins-miller@iowa.gov

Community College Enrollment Exceeds 100,000; Record Increase

This fall, enrollment in Iowa community colleges exceeded 100,000 for the first time in their 43-year history. According to an annual report released by the Iowa Department of Education, enrollment increased 14.3 percent – the fastest pace for enrollment growth since 1975.

The *Iowa Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report* showed enrollment at Iowa's 15 community colleges was 100,736 students on the 14th day of the semester. Last year, the state's community colleges enrolled 88,104 students.

"Community colleges usually see more students during economic downturns, but this time students turned to community colleges in much greater numbers than they did in the past," said Judy Jeffrey, Director of the lowa Department of Education.

Enrollment increased across-the-board at the colleges, but enrollment was particularly strong for those most affected by the recession. Enrollment disproportionally increased for males and working-aged students between 25 and 64 years old.

"Unemployed workers are fueling unprecedented growth and waiting lists for many high demand community college programs," Jeffrey said.

Enrollment also increased for traditional students and those wanting to transfer to four-year colleges. Transfer-oriented programs increased 25.8 percent this year to 64,121 students.

The number of high school students taking advantage of opportunities to enroll in community college coursework also increased markedly this year. The number of jointly enrolled students increased 13.2 percent to 26,111 students.

lowa's 15 community colleges are comprehensive institutions with statutory missions of providing transfer-oriented arts and science programs, career and technical programs, adult education, customized job training, programming for high school students, developmental education, and community services. Community colleges have an "open door" admissions policy which guarantees lowans an opportunity for educational assistance and career development.

The *Iowa Community Colleges Fall Enrollment Report 2009* is available on the Department's website at: www.iowa.gov/educate/ccpublications/

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The lowa Department of Education works with the State of lowa Board of Education to provide oversight, supervision and support for the state education system, which includes public elementary and secondary schools, nonpublic schools that receive state accreditation, area education agencies, community colleges and teacher preparation programs. The department is committed to high levels of learning, achievement and

Iowa Department of Education
News Release

Page 2 of 2 performance for all students, so they will become successful members of their community and the workforce.